

THE WAR FOR THE UNION.

MARYLAND ITEMS.

Correspondence of The N. Y. Tribune.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 15, 1861.

It is my conviction that our authorities at Washington are not alive to the importance of a more perfect surveillance of methods of communication between Maryland and Virginia, both above and below Washington. Letters and papers pass and repass constantly at Port Tobacco. The Frederickburg (Va.) papers—*News* and *Recorder*—publish articles from the New-York papers as soon as the Washington papers do. Letters which a month ago used to be a month on the way, are now only a few days. Can any one tell us whether there is sufficient force at Port Tobacco to stop this? If there is not, and if the blockade of the Potomac prevents our control of this matter, every one of those post-offices of south-eastern Maryland should be stopped at once, or else our expeditions will presently meet with something worse than gales.

Here is another way that the Rebels have of gaining information: It is not infrequent that some distinguished Marylanders residing in counties bordering on the river, while really loyal themselves, have divided households—sons and daughters being romantically Southern. The matter does not seem of importance to these gentlemen, and does not obstruct their free communication in the midst of their families. But these gentlemen are often rewarded for their loyalty by offices at Washington, and their free access to the President and Cabinet are considered of prime importance. It is true these gentlemen may serve the Government well, and may give important information; but they obtain the same also, and are not over-cautious in their households. A gentleman from Rockville, Md., most of whose family are for secession, has an important office. And from that same county of Montgomery there is a gentleman in most confidential relations with our Government, and having a fine office in the Post-Office Department, has a daughter betrothed to a prominent young Rebel captain from a very wealthy and aristocratic family of Frederick, Md. These are perilous leaks.

The Quakers of Montgomery and Frederick Counties have formed sewing societies for our soldiers, and are laboring with an ability which would astonish George Fox. It is said that when some Committee men were going the rounds in their neighborhood to get blankets, &c., for our soldiers, they came to a Quaker household, where the first thing that arrested their eye was a table loaded with blankets and quilts. The Committee modestly preferred their request, and a pious lady replied: "Friend, we cannot assist them in the work of blood shed, even so far as to help those engaged in it; but there are some things on that table, and if they choose to shed them, it is equally against our principles to use violence to prevent them." Convinced that the articles were very carefully placed where they could be stolen, the Committee took the pin cushion, and the Quakers assembled, in which they joined.

It is true that a slave ferried our soldiers to the Virginia side in a shift on the dreary night after the Edwards's Ferry repulse. It is instead of betraying our men, he had been "used against" us—that is, had stabbed each one he found—he might have been set free.

FROM MISSOURI.

Condition of Things Throughout the State—Peace Returning—Elements of Relief Gone to Dixie—Horse Thieves—Inducement to Emigrants.

From Our Special Correspondent.

St. Louis, Nov. 11, 1861.

Having spent the last three weeks in making a tour of 800 miles through different portions of Missouri, I will give you very briefly the result of my observations. First of all, it may be alleged without fear of contradiction that the Secessionists are becoming heartily sick of the bloody strife brought into the State by their blind leaders. Since the retirement of Price with his army into the extreme South-West, taking with him the fomenters of mischief and the leaders of guerrilla bands that rocked to its standard at Lexington, a feeling of comparative rest and security has spread through all other parts of the State. It is true that many are returning from Price's camp to their homes in different parts of the State; but these are not the leaders. They are mostly privates, who were involved into the contest, and now return thoroughly disgusted with their needless and inglorious campaigns, glad enough to be permitted to settle down to their peaceful pursuits. These men unite with the loyal citizens, and with apparent cordiality, in the determination to put down everything like intestine and neighborhood strife. These men have become thoroughly satisfied that the United States has power to hold Missouri, and will do it if the territory has to be burnt over, and opened to new settlement. With this wholesome conviction upon their minds, they have thought it would be rather useless as well as foolish to beat out their brains against cannon balls, and so have concluded to lay down their arms, and become good loyal citizens. They by then they all have learned this easy lesson a few months ago.

The bridge-burning mania seems also to have died out with the absence of its great author, Claiborne F. Jackson. All the railroads in the State are now running their regular trains, and although guards are kept at the most important points, little apprehension is felt with regard to incendiaries. Most of these savage marauders and cold-blooded murderers have found their way to Dixie through Price's army, and few of them will ever return to curse the State again with their presence. There are now no organized bodies of Secessionists on the north side of the Missouri, and none on the south except in the extreme south-east and south-west. It is confidently believed that another fortnight will see our borders entirely free from the presence of a rebel army.

We have still one class of scoundrels left who carry on their operations singly, or in groups of two or three. These are the horse thieves, whose proclivities have been stimulated into wonderful activity by the existence of the war. Where they can do it, these miscreants profess to be Secessionists engaged in the laudable and patriotic work of confiscating the property of the "d-d Abolitionists" as they style all Union men. Having stolen a few good horses they run them off to St. Louis or Chicago, and frequently sell them to the Quartermasters of the Army. But this game is nearly played out, as all good citizens are uniting to put down the thieves, and between blue pills, balsters, and the penitentiary, we shall soon work out of this element of rascaldom from the body politic, and a few months will see Missouri free from these thieving gentry than she has ever before. It is an ill wind that blows no good, and if Missouri can slough off during this war all the ruffians, roddies, rogues and rascals that have so damaged her reputation heretofore, the bloody strife may turn out to be a blessing in disguise.

It is too early to do more than speculate upon the subject yet, but, with the peace of the country once settled, there will be no place on the continent offering such inducements to emigrants from the East and North as this same Missouri. Owing to the large emigration of slaveholders to the South, real estate

will be cheaper here than anywhere else in the whole West. Well-improved farms can be purchased now at a merely nominal price—less than half the cost of the improvements—and this state of things will continue for two or three years, under the most favorable circumstances. The next two years will be the period for the thorough renovation and regeneration of this noble State. Let a quarter of a million from the densely-populated States, where a poor man can scarcely own a garden-spot, come and purchase for a few hundred dollars a farm of as good land as the sun shines upon. Let a dozen industrious families unite in purchasing a plantation of two or three thousand acres, which now gives support to one white family and forty or fifty slaves, and by dividing it into farms of New-England size, make a neighborhood where knowledge, Christianity and the social virtues can grow. Efforts have been made in this State during many years past to establish an efficient system of public schools; but the attempt has been little better than a failure, for the reason that, as in all Slave States, a single plantation would frequently occupy too much territory for a good sized school district. We want more people, and we want them of the right sort. We want enterprising farmers, fruit and vine growers, miners, mechanics, manufacturers, and we want them all to love liberty and that knowledge and virtue which alone can maintain and preserve it.

As the regular reports of correspondents from Springfield have been cut off for the present, I will barely allude to the State of things there, as reported by an army officer just arrived from that post. It appears that there is no prospect of a battle in that quarter. Indeed it is well established that our troops have never been within fifty miles of the main body of Price's army since he left Lexington, and the two armies are now seventy miles apart. As there is no chance of getting a fight from the Rebels except by pursuing them into the wilds of Arkansas, Gen. Hunter is said to have determined, after driving the enemy from the State to leave a competent force in the South-west, and move the main body of his army to St. Louis, to be ready to operate in Kentucky, or wherever most needed. The temporary excitement caused by the removal of Fremont has passed away, and while there is the utmost confidence in Gen. Hunter, we are now rejoicing at the prospect of having the Western Department in the hands of Gen. Halleck.

FROM KENTUCKY.

The War in East Tennessee—Railroad Bridges Destroyed—Zollicoffer Probably in a Trap—The Rebels Getting Scared—The Time for Prompt Action.

From Our Own Correspondent.

LOUISVILLE, Nov. 14, 1861.

No wonder the villainous Confederates at Nashville feared to find a true bill against Brownlow for treason! I think it likely they were in the condition of the Arkansas legislator, who "smelt a rat, saw it brewing in the storm, and by the help of God, determined to nip it in the bud." They thought they saw a quiet little thunder cloud floating slowly on the still breezes among the mountains of East Tennessee; and Gov. Harris, who is the most considerate fellow in the world, when there is danger ahead, instructed his minions to make a virtue of necessity, and treat the Parson with forbearance. But it did them no good, if we may rely on the reports by telegraph of the tearing up of bridges and cutting of telegraph wires on the railroad lines. All attempts to coax or coerce those free-born mountaineers will prove as fruitless as would an effort to dam the current of one of their mountain torrents.

If the *Philadelphia Inquirer's* dispatch from Fortrose Monroe has not given them credit for more than they have accomplished, they achieved in one day the work of a severe campaign. According to that account, four structures were destroyed on the East Tennessee and Virginia Railroad, running from Knoxville to Bristol. The little town of Bristol is located on the line between Virginia and Tennessee. It is likely the bridge 200 feet long mentioned in the dispatch is that which crosses Holston River at Strawberry Plains. There is a trestle work of considerable length at this place, which we may reasonably suppose shared the fate of the bridge. This effects a pretty thorough interruption of transportation eastward from Knoxville. The wooden bridge destroyed at Charleston, Tenn., on the East Tennessee and Chattanooga Road, maps the cord of communication with Nashville. Both of these, taken together, cut the pirate Zollicoffer off from reinforcements from East or West. The East Tennesseans say to the United States Army in Kentucky, "Here he is! come and take him." And he should be taken at once, while the fine Fall weather lasts. Let the Wild Cats go over and tear the eyes out of his "Bull Pups."

Late information from Bowling Green leads me to suspect that tidings from the East have shaken the disposition of those in command at that point. One of my informants says they frequently move off troops from Bowling Green in detachments of one or two companies, in the night, quietly. No one could tell how many had been withdrawn in this stealthy manner. Occasionally they bring in a whole regiment, with a grand flourish of trumpets. As one quite trustworthy person who has lately escaped from Bowling Green, expresses the belief that Buckner and Hardee's entire force there does not exceed fifteen thousand, I take it for granted many have been moved off in some direction; for I am fully satisfied there were at one time fifty thousand men in and around Bowling Green. My information was of such a nature that I could not doubt it.

"Agate," a correspondent of the *Cincinnati Gazette* (a discreet and well-informed writer), thinks, in his letter of the 10th, he has good grounds for the belief that the fine railroad bridge across the Cumberland River at Nashville has been destroyed. This I am disposed to doubt. It is more probable that when informed of the railroad and telegraph destruction in East Tennessee, the leading Rebels at Nashville at once conceived the idea, as they must have seen the necessity, unless at their wife's demand from sheer consternation, of keeping the facts from the ears of Kentucky as long as possible. To let them be known was to invite a movement of Union troops through Cumberland Gap at once. They have, therefore, I opine, been putting out rumors of any disaster save the one which really occurred, and which filled their guilty cabals with terror. It was as the fingers of a man's hand writing upon the wall, "Mene, mene, tekel upharin!" Their countenances were changed; their thoughts troubled them so that the joints of their loins were loosed, and their knees smote one against another. They desired bad tidings, if they must come to the people's ears, to come in any other shape than that.

Everything in Kentucky awaits active operations. The weather itself is as if heaven and earth were conspiring together against treason, and saying to the Government: "Trust in the sharp sickle." Now is the time for a descent upon enslaved Tennessee. The conduct of Buckner's men at Bowling Green has been so intolerably gross, that not only are Union men fleeing when they can make their escape, and firing the hearts of loyal people by details of their brutal treatment, but Secessionists themselves begin to repine. Houses and farms are appropriated to military purposes with the coolest effrontery. Wagons and horses are demanded of those who have them, and less than half their value paid, in the miserable depreciated currency of

Dixie, when compensation is offered at all. Corn cribs and granaries are relieved of their contents in the same arbitrary manner, and upon the same terms. Groves of choice timber are felled, and fences consumed in camp fires. Such things might have a redeeming feature connected with them, if they were the acts of a civilized army, sent out by a Government able to pay assessed damages; but the votaries of Secession even cannot blind themselves to the fact, that they are being consumed and devastated by pirates, without hope of compensation. Some Bowling Green Rebels, whose names have been given me, have been dazed with their "rights," for which they have so long clamored, till they sit with cup in hand, making very face, like a sick child with a dose of castor oil. If we could but send Buckner down upon the wealthy farmers of Sumner and Robinson counties, in Tennessee, and let those deluded wretches drink the cup to the dregs, I think many of our southern Kentucky Secessionists would exclaim, "I will arise and go to my father," and the contagion of repentance would extend to their neighbors in Tennessee, should the Rebel army be quartered on them but a week or two before we relieved them also.

The ravages of typhoid fever and other diseases among the Bowling Green soldiers are such, that not less than 3,000 are said to be in the hospitals. Sanitary means are scarce, and diseases are attended with untoward fatality.

FROM NORTH CAROLINA.

Landing of the Forty-eighth (Penn.) Regiment at Hatteras—The Response to the Great Relief Meeting—Fine Weather—The Confederate Fleet—Reinforcements needed—Case of Col. Hawkins.

From Our Own Correspondent.

HATTERAS ISLAND, N. C., Nov. 13, 1861.

The steamer S. N. Spaulding arrived here yesterday with the 48th Pennsylvania Regiment, Col. Noble commanding. This entire regiment was raised in Schuylkill County, Penn., after many companies had been raised and attached to other regiments. Col. Noble was all through the Mexican war, where he distinguished himself, and gained the admiration of his superior officers. He is a man of character and energy, possessing all the qualities of a soldier, and Pennsylvania may rest assured that this fine regiment, which numbers near a thousand men, will give a good account of itself if the enemy assaults this point, and from present appearances they will doubtless make an effort in that direction before long. All the officers attached to this regiment appear to be experienced men and good soldiers, who enjoy the confidence and respect of the entire regiment. They also have a fine land attached to the regiment, which were playing patriotic airs as the Spaulding came in the inlet with flying colors. This regiment will be stationed at Fort Clark, which was recently occupied by the 20th Indiana.

Since the great storm, we have had an opportunity to cast about and discover the final result of the flood. Between Fort Clark and Hatteras (a distance of three-quarters of a mile), nothing but water, at high tide, can be seen. A new inlet was formed between these forts by the storm of the 24th inst., which will doubtless deepen, and soon become a navigable stream. It is thought that, in case another storm as severe as the one on the 24th inst. should visit this coast, Fort Hatteras would, unless it is strengthened, be washed away, as there is now nothing left between the sea and the fort. The inhabitants say that such storms come only once in eight or ten years, and that we shall not be visited by a like deluge on this coast for many years to come. Above Fort Clark, matters remain about as they were, with the exception that the beach, for nearly a mile, is not so high as it was by some three feet.

The Spaulding brings the New-York papers of the 8th inst., which contain the proceedings of the great meeting at the Cooper Institute, for the relief of the loyal people on this island. It has created a sensation here of a very desirable character, and roused every heart to leap with joy at the ready response which the benevolent City of New-York gives to the pressing wants of these true and loyal people. Many will be the prayers that will be offered up to-night by these Christian people, who have sent their efficient and brave Union Chaplain to the free North for aid in this hour of their need. The Rev. Mr. Conway, the popular Chaplain of the 9th New-York Volunteers, who is at present stationed on this island, is entitled to much credit for the interest he has taken in these poor and unfortunate people. Rest assured that this laudable and prompt response on the part of your citizens to assist the friends of Union in this section will have a very marked and beneficial effect all through the South, and will do more to encourage the Union men in the "Confederate States" than any one thing that has happened since this rebellion broke out.

We are having delightful weather here now, much like the Indian Summer, which is improved by the Pennsylvania soldiers, who are enjoying themselves in gathering the beautiful shells, and fishing for oysters, clams, and every variety of fish.

Since my last, a new commander for the gunboat Ceres, of this fleet, has arrived, who is none other than the popular John McDiarmid of Brooklyn, New-York, who is as expert in handling a rifle-cannon, as he is famous for his genial ways. The Ceres will soon have a new gun or two, as also will the Gen. Putnam. The Ceres has a crew of 33 fighting patriots. N. M. Coleman (a printer of New-York) and G. B. Thompson, promoted from before the mast, are master-mates. These two boats are all we have that can go into these Sounds, and notwithstanding the unequal odds against them, their commanders are both extremely anxious to have the opportunity or permission to engage the attention of the Confederate fleet which daily makes its appearance within view of our entire fleet, occasionally sending their shells at us, while we are powerless to send them battle, having only these two small boats to send against them.

In my last, I gave the particulars of the arrest of Col. Hawkins, late commander of this post. I am glad to learn that Gen. Wool suspended further proceedings in this matter as soon as Col. H. presented himself to the Fortress for an examination. It is doubtless apparent to Gen. Wool, that Col. H. acted the part of a soldier all through this matter.

FROM FORTRESS MONROE.

Important from the South—Arrival at Savannah of a Rebel Iron Steamer with Guns and Munitions—Gathering of the Unionists in Tennessee—Knoxville under Martial Law—Proclamation of Gov. Harris—An Outbreak Daily Expected—From Beaufort—Consternation in Savannah—The People Pining—The Authorities Stop Them—Col. Corcoran held as Hostage for Smith, the Privateer—Twelve others confined as Hostages—Destination of the Fleet—Its Exploits and Fane—Various Interesting Items.

From Our Special Correspondent.

FORTRESS MONROE, Old Point Comfort, Nov. 15, 1861.

Special dispatches to Richmond announce that Col. Anderson had arrived at Savannah with a new iron-clad steamer from Europe and a large quantity of arms, munitions, clothing, blankets, chemicals, rifled cannon, and everything which the Southern army may need.

Dispatches from Lynchburg state that the Unionists have a camp of 1,300 at Elizabethtown, near

Carolina line, about twenty miles from Bristol, and another of about 700 near Strawberry Plains, both of which were increasing, and threaten to take possession of railroads and bridges.

Knoxville had been placed under martial law. Gov. Harris of Tennessee has issued an address calling on the people of that State to furnish every double-barrelled shot-gun and rifle they have to arm the troops—to exhaust every source to repel the invaders.

A general outbreak was daily expected in East Tennessee, and arrests have been made. A dispatch, dated Charleston the 12th, states that Beaufort is unoccupied by the Federal troops, who visit the place during the day and return at night.

A dispatch, dated Savannah the 9th, states that the city was in a great excitement in consequence of the fall of Beaufort, the arrival of retreating troops and wounded men, which aroused the city to the intensest pitch. The streets swarmed with the terrified populace, families commencing packing up, and large numbers of females and children were sent from the city by the night train to the up country. The *Republican* says, "The efflux will continue, and on the whole we think it best that this portion of our population should not be present and embarrass our defensive preparations."

A number of merchants, says *The Republican*, were engaged the whole of yesterday in packing up their effects, with the intention of shipping them and themselves beyond the reach of danger. Our city authorities took the matter in hand and hid an embargo on the export. The *Republican* calls for an order forbidding all men under sixty years of age leaving the city. The *Republican* says this cowardly desertion, when the city for the first time calls for their services, is disgraceful, and should not be allowed.

The *Richmond Examiner* sounds the alarm that 4,000 Union troops have landed on the Eastern shore of that State, crossing from Somerset into Accomac, and that the available whole force there is only 1,800 men, under Col. Smith. The rumor is well grounded, as several regiments have recently been sent from Baltimore to the Eastern shore of Virginia.

There is trouble among the banks of Norfolk, the notes of the Portsmouth Bank being refused. The city authorities propose to take the matter in hand.

In obedience to instructions by Mr. Secretary of War Benjamin, Col. Corcoran, now a prisoner in Charleston, has been selected as hostage for Smith, lately condemned as a privateer in Philadelphia, and he confined immediately as a felon, and executed whenever Smith is. A further list of thirteen have been selected for future use in the same manner, namely: Cole Lee, Cogswell, Wilcox, Woodruff, and Wood; Lieut.-Col. Bowman and Nott; Major Potter, Revere, and Vogdes; Captains Rockwood, Bowen, and Ketter.

Although instructions have been given to treat persons taken by South Carolina as prisoners of war, it is said that State has resolved to neither ask nor give quarter, but to raise the black flag.

Jeff. Davis is about to make Senator Bright of Indiana a brigadier.

The *Richmond Dispatch* seconds the motion to have the Confederate flag changed, because it has too close a resemblance to the stars and stripes.

From four to five thousand Georgia troops have passed through Richmond within the last few days, but whether to or from that State is not said. A North Carolina regiment has lately returned home.

The fleet, after doing up the business in Port Royal, is understood, with the exception of such gunboats as were required to guard the newly-acquired harbors and cooperate with Gen. Sherman, to have sailed for Pensacola, where next may be expected one of those exploits for which our Navy has become famous. Commodore Dupont will not be idle. I trust he will be as complete in his work as active.

It doubtless may seem somewhat strange that more prisoners were not taken at Port Royal. That could easily have been done by two or three gunboats proceeding to Still Creek, where the terrified and retreating rebels might have been mercilessly shelled. It was an oversight now much regretted, and which, brilliant as the exploit was, somewhat detracts from the completeness of the work. With all praise to Commodore Dupont, I but reflect the suggestions and regrets of active and distinguished participants in the victory. Without any doubt, with 10,000 more troops, fairly disciplined, Gen. Sherman might have proceeded to Charleston or Savannah, or both. There is too much reason to fear that the flight which, for a few days, paralyzed the rebels, will wear off in time to be prepared for our next movement, and that the advantage will be measurably lost, though it is to be devoutly hoped not entirely thrown away, as in the case of the flatlanders victory.

The prestige of the Navy is now thoroughly established. Hereafter and batteries will hardly make a fight against its concentrated fire. Hatteras and Port Royal have demonstrated conclusively that our Navy can shell out any sandy battery or earth-work by concentrating such a storm of shells that the enemy cannot stand to their guns for any great length of time. It is in our power, therefore, to drive the rebels from every battery planted on Hampton Roads from Lion Haven to Pig Point. Nor should the fortifications of James and York Rivers be deemed more formidable. There is not one that cannot be taken as either one of the fortifications at Hatteras or Port Royal. Commodore Dupont has already placed his name high on the roll of dislocation along with Commodore Stringham's. It remains for Commodore Goldsborough to swell the list. The field is ample and inviting. I believe him not wanting in any of the qualities requisite to maintain and even increase the fame of our Navy. Shall he be allowed the opportunity?

The atrocity of the act of hanging out Col. Corcoran and twelve other officers of the Union army held as prisoners, and condemning them to death solely in retaliation, should alienate the rebels from the whole civilized world, if that is not the fact already. Col. Corcoran has committed no offense, and yet he is thrust into a felon's cell and doomed to die, in case Smith, who has been convicted as a privateer under the proclamation of Jeff. Davis, offering a bounty for every "Yankee" dead or alive. Smith was essentially a pirate, according to his vigilance in destroying our ships, murdering and capturing our seamen, were to be his gains. He is caught, tried and condemned. If he is executed, Col. Corcoran is to be executed; and twelve others have been selected for the same fate in a like contingency.

If this does not awaken a whirlwind that will sweep like a destroying blast, then I have mistaken the temper of all who have not irretrievably identified themselves with the wicked rebellion. Let Col. Corcoran be executed, and for every drop of his blood thousands of men will stand forth his avengers. Surely if madness is the precursor of final dissolution, we have the beginning of the end.

There is a prospect that Garnett has been beaten by Critcher for Congress, in the Elizabeth City district. Garnett is a follower of the fortunes of Floyd, and Critcher was an out-and-out Union man down to the latest hour. He may be so at heart now.

The Arrest of Mason and Slidell—The Way It was Done—The Expedition at Beaufort—Charleston the Place to Strike—Letters by Flag of Truce—Arrival of Reinforcements.

From Our Special Correspondent.

FORTRESS MONROE, Old Point Comfort, Nov. 16, 1861.

The bold stroke of Commander Wilkes in forcibly taking from an English mail steamer *Merrimack*

and Slidell will electrify the country. Commander W. acted wholly without orders and on his own responsibility, backed only by the hearty cooperation of the other officers of the *San Jacinto*. Commander Wilkes has for many years resided in Washington, is an officer of distinction, is famed for his connection with the South Sea Exploring Expedition, and is a gentleman of wealth and social position. He was lately ordered out to bring the *San Jacinto* home from the station on the coast of Africa. Reaching Havana on his return, he learned from the American Consul that Mason and Slidell had run the blockade in the *Theodore*, and had were about to embark at that port in the English mail steamer for England on their mission of treason. He determined in his own mind to block the business, and left for the Bahama Channel, where he cruised four or five days, during which time he communicated his purpose to the other officers. They all unhesitatingly gave their assent. Shortly after the British steamer was sighted and signaled. Lieut. Fairfax, of the best Virginia blood, and personally acquainted with the Rebel Ministers, with a boat's crew, went alongside. On gaining the deck of the steamer, Lieut. F. informed the commander that the purpose of his visit was to take a look among his passengers, of whom there were a large number. Seeing and hearing Mason and Slidell, he informed those gentlemen that the commander of the *San Jacinto*, then lying in a provokingly significant position at convenient distance, desired their presence on board. About this time the English mail agent, with pistol in hand, made his appearance and began to talk considerably about the "d-d Yankee pirates," whereupon Lieut. Fairfax advised the English captain to remove the excited individual or he would be compelled to resort to unpleasant measures. This advice was heeded. Allowing them a few moments to prepare for the visit, the nature of which they fully comprehended, Lieut. Fairfax explaining that he wished to detain the steamer that had so obligingly stopped as short a time as possible, Mason and Slidell were assisted to the gangway by Lieut. F. and his men, just enough to overcome the resistance, more technical than real, shown to the removal. These gentlemen being seated in the boat, Lieut. Fairfax returned on board the English steamer, and politely informed the two secretaries of Mason and Slidell that, as he desired to avoid any unnecessary separation, they were invited to accompany the steamer; in fact, and briefly, it was necessary that they should do so, and that they would take seats with them in the same boat. The persuasion was irresistible, and a ready compliance was the consequence. And so, politely thanking the captain of the British mail steamer for his courtesies, and apologizing for the necessity in the case for stopping him even for so short a time, and hoping him a speedy and safe passage, Lieut. Fairfax entered his own boat, and the astonished, wrathful Englishmen went on his way. Mason and Slidell were politely received on board the *San Jacinto*, by Capt. Wilkes, to whom they were not strangers, and who briefly informed them that he felt it his duty to take them somewhat out of the accustomed route to England, whither he knew they were proceeding to further the plot for destroying the country and Government of which he was an officer, and to which he believed he was rendering good service by arresting them wherever he could find them, as he should all other traitors.

On the British mail steamer were the families of the rebel Ministers, who kept on their course to England. Commander Wilkes did not search or in any manner interfere with their baggage, and they were allowed to make such disposition of that respect as they chose.

As good accommodations as the *San Jacinto* could furnish were given to her distinguished prisoners. I understood that Commander Wilkes ran east enough to Charleston to afford his pilgrims an opportunity of once more beholding the towers high and battlements gray of that sacred city—their starting place not fifteen days before. While I write, the *San Jacinto* is anchored almost within gun-shot of the rebel batteries, at which the rebel Ministers are permitted to gaze, and contemplate with what satisfaction they can their present situation. Mr. Mason resorts to "Hampton Bars," his own native oyster, for consolation. Mr. Slidell extends his blandishments on the cook and steward, while everybody, on ship and on shore, congratulates everybody else, coupled with praises for Wilkes, and the expression of the hope that his spirit of enterprise and fearlessness may have a thousand imitators. "The Captain was bound to have the traitors anyway," said a *San Jacinto* officer, "without asking, or that I know of, exiling, what England might say. She could be taken care of afterward."

Commander Wilkes, immediately on his arrival, called on Gen. Wool, from whom he received the warmest congratulations. Subsequently he called on Flag-Officer Goldsborough. It was his intention to leave for New-York last evening, but he was delayed in calling.

It will be recollected that when Mason and Slidell reached Havana, the British Consul received them with all the honors. I learn the interesting fact that subsequently, in consequence of these attentions to the Rebels, the Captain-General declined further intercourse with the British Consul.

Our last advices, through Rebel sources, were that the village of Beaufort had not yet been occupied by Gen. Sherman. Gen. Robert Lee has been appointed to command the Rebel forces at that quarter, and he is said to have commenced fortifying the village.

In less than five days after Hatteras was taken, when the State of North Carolina was at our feet, the Rebels had 3,000 men and a battery of 15 guns on Roanoke Island. We failed to follow up the important advantage, and within one month's time we were on the defensive at Hatteras. This piece of experience makes one restive at any apparent delay in improving advantages at Beaufort or elsewhere. I presume that it will turn out that Gen. Sherman did not find himself at the head of troops that warranted him in pushing ahead as fast as, at this distance, would seem desirable.

If there is any particular thing that the loyal people of the country, and I believe very many of the people of the revolted States also, desire more than anything else, it is to see Charleston in the possession of our troops, with the Stars and Stripes waving from the place from which they were first torn. Ended whenever and in whatever way it may be, if the history of the rebellion does not record this much, it will record a grand omission, a humiliating failure in the cause of justice. You can today raise more troops and get more money for such an expedition than any other that you can name. The Government will stand in danger of being accused of a want of energy and the right sort of determination and purpose, so long as it postpones this blow. Let it fall—fall with terrible, crushing energy—not as an act of vengeance, though it could be justified on that ground, but simply as an act of justice and right in the highest sense—an act that the whole world expects and would approve; and one that would at the same time do more than any other to crush out the rebellion. Will the Government walk stately up to the work?

Persons sending letters to Gen. Wool's headquarters, or to any one else, expecting to have them transmitted by flag of truce, should observe these rules, otherwise the letters will not be sent: Leave letters unsealed; if the destination is beyond Virginia, inclose 10 cents; if Virginia, 5 cents; the contents must be confined to one page of note paper, written in the ordinary way, and legible. The necessity for these rules is apparent when it is under-

stood that every letter must be read at headquarters before sent; that the number reaches sometimes several hundred in a single day—once or twice as high as seven hundred, I believe. Proflixity is the universal rule. The other day a letter was received with a request that it might be forwarded, covering seven sheets, or twenty-eight pages, closely written on thin commercial-size paper. The contents would have nearly filled a page of *The Tribune*. All letters that do not conform to the above rules will receive no attention, and stand no chance of going through.

The arrival of a full regiment of cavalry, a thousand and horses, and as many men, is not an unmeaning indication. I am gratified, as no doubt the whole country will be glad, to hear that the views and wishes of Gen. Wool receive the most respectful attention at Washington, based as they are on large experience and the promise of results. Some of Gen. Wool's recent dispatches have attracted particular attention for their vigor and comprehensiveness. I see that some writers for the papers have attributed to Gen. Wool a disposition to complain that so young a man as Gen. McClellan was advanced to the senior position. With an enemy in front Gen. Wool will complain only that he is not furnished the means, when they are so abundant, to dislodge the rebels and strike telling blows without further loss of time.

Col. Cron, of Gen. Wool's staff, is busy in making surveys and preparing for erecting *lites de point* in the neighborhood of Camp Hamilton, and in discharging the many duties devolving on him as Inspector-General of this Department. Gen. Wool is fortunate in having so thorough an officer on his staff.

[By Telegraph.]

PORTLAND, ME., Nov. 17, 1861. 3
Via BOSTON, Monday, Nov. 18, 1861. 3
There has been no flag of truce to-day, and there is no intelligence whatever from the South.

A Spanish bark, taken off Charleston by the Alabama, has arrived in charge of a prize crew, and will sail to-night for New-York. She has no cargo on board, and will probably be released.

Our naval force at Newport News has been increased, in order to check the Rebel expedition fitting out in James River, of which three formidable iron-boats are said to form a part.

Gen. Phelps's command are building comfortable huts for winter quarters, and Newport News will in a few days present the appearance of a large frontier village.

AFFAIRS AT NORFOLK.

An Inside View—Story of a Refugee—High Price of Necessaries of Life—The Union Feeling Dead—Condition of the Fortifications—Number of Troops—How the Capture of Beaufort was Received—The Steam Battering-Ram Merrimack—Difficulties in the way of People Leaving—Wages of Labor—Embargo on North Carolina Produce—Distress of the People.

Mr. Henry Davis, a respectable shoemaker, now residing on Staten Island, who left Norfolk, Va., last Friday, with about 150 other refugees, after ten months' residence in that city, visited us yesterday. From a brief conversation with him we have been able to gather the following items of news: There is but little Union feeling in Norfolk, and, so far as he could learn from North Carolinians who worked with him, there was not much in that State.

A few days ago flour rose in Norfolk from \$5 to \$8.50 a barrel, on account of the outbreak among the Union men of Tennessee. Coffee is 50 cents a pound, and very scarce. Sugar of the commonest kind is 15 cents a pound. Fish is plentiful, and most people live on that diet, with corn bread; salt pork, 20 cents; lard, 25 cents a pound; potatoes, \$1 a bushel; candles, common tallow, 25 to 30 cents a pound, and sperm, 10 cents each.

Clothing of every kind is very high. Common black pantaloons, \$12 to \$18; vests, from \$12 to \$30; black frock coats, \$30. Dry goods of all kinds have advanced from 500 to 1,000 per cent. Most of the goods are brought from New-Orleans at present.

Of materials for boots and shoes, sole leather sold at \$1 a pound, with not a pound left in Norfolk when our informant came away, except what little the shoemakers held; upper leather, calf, \$1.00 for a dozen skins. No materials for ladies' shoes to be had. Ladies' shoes sold at \$3 to \$5 a pair; very common, \$3.50. Men's lace boots, \$3; long, \$12 to \$30. All kinds of business was very good, many people having started small manufactories for various necessities, giving poor people employment.

The old Custom-House was burned down last Wednesday night. The upper part was used as a barracks, the lower part as a storeroom; most of the contents were consumed. It is not known how the fire originated.

It is difficult to tell how many soldiers are at Norfolk, so